

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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New Hampshire Celebrates Release of Gulf of Maine Council 2007-2012 Action Plan

Portsmouth, NH – The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, a U.S.-Canadian partnership of government and non-government organizations, including the State of New Hampshire, today announced the release of the 2007-2012 Action Plan for protection of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. The Council works to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. The Council organizes conferences and workshops, offers grants, conducts environmental monitoring and raises public awareness on the environmental health of the Gulf of Maine.

The Action Plan describes the goals, outcomes, and activities that the Council will pursue through its committees and partnerships in the next five years and was developed by incorporating public input and the findings of numerous studies, workshops, and key policy developments, including Canada's Oceans Action Plan, and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

The 2007–2012 Plan contains three overarching, long- range goals:

Goal 1- Coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition.

Goal 2- Environmental conditions in the Gulf of Maine support ecosystem and human health.

Goal 3- Gulf of Maine coastal communities are vibrant and have marine-dependent industries that are healthy and globally competitive.

“New Hampshire’s breathtaking coastline is part of our heritage and part of the legacy we are entrusted with safeguarding for the future. The waters of the Gulf of Maine are used for recreational and commercial purposes, which are important to our way of life and our economy. That’s why I am pleased to join neighboring states and provinces in protecting this valuable resource,” said Governor John Lynch.

DES Commissioner and Gulf of Maine Councilor, Tom Burack said, “We look to the Gulf of Maine Council for leadership on marine environment issues that require regional solutions. We will continue to work with our neighboring states and provinces toward a sustainable marine environment that supports a vibrant economy.”

Detailed information about the Council’s activities, the Action Plan and the multi-year work plan are available at www.gulfofmaine.org.

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